



# ARUBA TODAY

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Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

## U.S. cities reporting fewer killings hope crime strategies prevent a summer surge

By KATHLEEN FOODY  
Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — An expected bump in violent crime this summer has mayors and police officials around the U.S. rolling out familiar strategies of making officers more visible and engaging with community groups, in some cases leaning on civilians to enforce curfews and keep the peace. Chicago is among the U.S. cities under scrutiny following a mayoral race that focused on public safety in response to demands for change. Violence often surges during summer months, so this holiday weekend will undoubtedly ramp up pressure on Mayor Brandon Johnson's new administration to deliver short-term improvement along with the long-term strategies that the former union organizer advocated while campaigning to lead the nation's third-largest city.

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Private security personnel patrol the area around Anish Kapoor's stainless steel sculpture Cloud Gate, also known as "The Bean," in Chicago's Millennium Park Thursday, May 25, 2023.  
Associated Press

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# U.S. cities reporting fewer killings hope crime strategies prevent a summer surge

Continued from Front

"It's going to take all of us, not just the police, not just city government, to ensure that our communities can live and thrive in peace and safety," Johnson said at a lakefront press conference promoting the city's Memorial Day weekend strategy.

Most large U.S. cities are reporting fewer homicides this year, according to data collected by the Council on Criminal Justice which created a Crime Trends Working Group this spring in hopes of providing more real-time information on crime.

The shift is a tentative reprieve following those spikes that began in 2020 and began to come down last year. The totals remain far higher than pre-pandemic reports and are "cause for serious concern but not for panic," said Thomas Abt, founding director of the Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction at the University of Maryland.

"Where cities are seeing success, they're generally investing in a balanced approach that includes policing but ... also supports community-based approaches," Abt said. "They have recognized the need for enforcement but also emphasize prevention and intervention."

Officials in Cleveland, Ohio,



**Flanked by city officials and community leaders, Chicago mayor Brandon Johnson announces the city's public safety plan in advance of Memorial Day weekend, Thursday, May 25, 2023, in Chicago.**

Associated Press

Newark, N.J. and Philadelphia have announced summer plans to make officers more of a visible presence in locations where violent crimes have happened, while also promoting community efforts to prevent violence and provide alternative activities.

In Baltimore, city officials — not police officers — will enforce curfews on teenagers starting Friday and continuing through Labor Day weekend. The controversial policy has long been on the books but rarely enforced.

"We are going back to the old days," Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott said in announcing the summer enforcement, after two teens were wounded as hundreds of teenagers gathered on a Sunday night in the city's popular Inner Har-

bor district.

That shooting in April, which unfolded while officers were trying to break up a fight at the scene, added to a significant spike in youth violence, which has persisted even as overall shootings and homicides trend downward in Baltimore.

According to Scott's plan, non-law enforcement staff will approach children and teens violating the curfew policy on weekend and holiday nights. First, they'll encourage kids to go home, but if that doesn't work, the children will be transported to a youth engagement center that provides a supervised environment to hang out.

In Detroit, federal prosecutors are expanding efforts to help local police this summer by taking armed

carjacking cases and business robberies in high-crime areas, in addition to certain gun crimes. Federal convictions typically bring longer sentences.

"The most dangerous people will be prosecuted immediately in federal court," U.S. Attorney Dawn Ison said Wednesday.

Following a half-dozen shootings — including one fatality — in the downtown Detroit area over one weekend in April, Police Chief James White instituted a crowd control strategy including increased police presence. Curfews for minors also will be enforced. In Chicago, mayors face annual pressure to demonstrate a proactive approach to violent crime ahead of Memorial Day, the traditional kickoff to warm weather and summer events where crowds gather.

Johnson promised to move away from a policing-first strategy as he took office at the start of May, but he's also distanced himself from calls to cut money for policing. He chose a retired department veteran as interim police chief.

Federal data show Chicago's homicide rate remains lower than other Midwestern cities such as St. Louis and Detroit, with 211 killings reported so far this year, lower than the same period in 2022 and 2021.

Johnson's holiday weekend

strategy includes making officers a visible presence, including bag checks at crowded beaches, parks and events. Philanthropic and business groups have donated to anti-violence groups organizing events aimed at young people. And the state of Illinois has authorized a team of 30 "peacekeepers" — not police — who have training and experience in de-escalating conflict, to roam Chicago aiming to prevent outbreaks of violence.

Community groups with similar strategies have operated for years across Chicago, focusing on specific neighborhoods or blocks with a history of violence. State officials said their team would be mobile and able to respond anywhere, including downtown, where large gatherings of teens during a warm April weekend ended with several shootings and other violence.

Norman Livingston Kerr led a Chicago anti-violence organization before he became assistant deputy mayor for public safety under Johnson's predecessor, Lori Lightfoot. He now consults with cities and non-profits to develop anti-violence strategies that rely on de-escalation or intervention. He's encouraged by signs that the city and state are committing long-term resources to efforts like the peacekeepers program. □



**President Ronald Reagan and Queen Elizabeth II raise their glasses in a toast during a state dinner, March 3, 1983, at the M. H. de Young Museum in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.**

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The FBI has disclosed a potential threat to Queen Elizabeth II during her 1983 trip to the United States.

The documents were released this week on the FBI's records website. Queen Eliz-

abeth II died last September after a 70-year reign.

The queen's West Coast visit with her husband, Prince Philip, included a stop in San Francisco in March 1983. The FBI said that a San Francisco police officer who frequent-

## Threat to Queen Elizabeth during 1983 U.S. trip detailed in FBI documents

ed a bar popular with sympathizers of the Irish Republican Army had received a phone call in February 1983 from a man who claimed his daughter had been killed in Northern Ireland by a rubber bullet.

According to the documents, the man said he was going to "attempt to harm Queen Elizabeth" by either dropping an object off the Golden Gate Bridge onto the queen's royal yacht or

try to kill her during a visit to Yosemite National Park. The documents said the Secret Service intended to close the bridge's walkways as the yacht drew near.

The names of the officer and the caller were redacted in the documents, which did not indicate whether precautions were taken at Yosemite or whether any arrests were made. A March 7, 1983, memo indicated the queen completed the U.S.

visit "without incident" and that "no further investigation is warranted."

The documents detailed other security concerns involving the queen's visits to various U.S. cities. When she attended a Baltimore Orioles game with President George H.W. Bush in May 1991, several dozen demonstrators in the park chanted slogans condemning Britain's policy in Northern Ireland. □



# After yearslong delay, DEA revokes license of drug distributor over opioid crisis failures

By JOSHUA GOODMAN  
and JIM MUSTIAN  
Associated Press

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration stripped one of the nation's largest drug distributors of its license to sell highly addictive painkillers Friday after determining it failed to flag thousands of suspicious orders at the height of the opioid crisis.

The action against Morris & Dickson Co. that threatens to put it out of business came two days after an Associated Press investigation found the DEA allowed the company to keep shipping drugs for nearly four years after a judge recommended the harshest penalty for its "cavalier disregard" of rules aimed at preventing opioid abuse.

The DEA acknowledged the time it took to issue its final decision was "longer than typical for the agency" but blamed Morris & Dickson in part for holding up the process by seeking delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its lengthy pursuit of a settlement that the agency said it had considered.

The order becomes effective



U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Anne Milgram speaks during a news conference at the Justice Department in Washington, Friday, April 14, 2023.

Associated Press

tive in 90 days, allowing more time to negotiate a settlement.

DEA Administrator Anne Milgram said in the 68-page order that Morris & Dickson failed to accept full responsibility for its past actions, which included shipping 12,000 unusually large orders of opioids to pharmacies and hospitals between

2014 and 2018. During this time, the company filed just three suspicious order reports with the DEA.

Milgram specifically cited testimony of then-president Paul Dickson Sr. in 2019 that the company's compliance program was "dang good" and he didn't think a "single person has gotten hurt by (their) drugs."

"Those statements from the president of a family-owned and operated company so strongly miss the point of the requirements of a DEA registrant," she wrote. "Its acceptance of responsibility did not prove that it or its principals understand the full extent of their wrongdoing ... and the potential harm it caused."

Shreveport, Louisiana-based Morris & Dickson traces its roots to 1840, when its namesake founder arrived from Wales and placed an ad in a local newspaper selling medicines. It has since become the nation's fourth-largest wholesale drug distributor, with \$4 billion a year in revenue and nearly 600 employees serving pharmacies and hospitals in 29 states.

In a statement, the company said it has invested millions of dollars over the past few years to revamp its compliance systems and appeared to hold out hope for a settlement.

"Morris & Dickson is grateful to the DEA administrator for delaying the effective date of the order to allow time to settle these old issues," it said.

"We remain confident we can achieve an outcome that safeguards the supply chain for all of our health-care partners and the communities they serve. ... Business will continue as usual and orders will continue to go out on time." □

# New York City mayor signs ban on weight and height discrimination

By KAREN MATTHEWS  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York City Mayor Eric Adams signed legislation Friday that will ban discrimination based on body size by adding weight and height to the list of protected categories such as race, sex and religion.

"We all deserve the same access to employment, housing and public accommodation, regardless of our appearance, and it shouldn't matter how tall you are or how much you weigh," said the mayor, who joined other elected officials as well as fat-acceptance advocates at

a City Hall bill-signing ceremony.

Adams, a Democrat who published a book about reversing his diabetes through a plant-based diet, said the ordinance "will help level the playing field for all New Yorkers, create more inclusive workplaces and living environments, and protect against discrimination." Exemptions under the ordinance, which the city council passed this month, include cases in which an individual's height or weight could prevent them from performing essential functions of a job.

Some business leaders expressed opposition to the

legislation when it was before the council, arguing that compliance could become an onerous burden.

"The extent of the impact and cost of this legislation has not been fully considered," Kathy Wylde, president and CEO of the Partnership for New York City, said in a statement.

Several other U.S. cities have banned discrimination based on weight and physical appearance, including San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Madison, Wisconsin. And legislation to ban weight and height discrimination has been introduced in states including New Jersey



Two women stand on Aug. 16, 2016, New York.

Associated Press

and Massachusetts. Tigress Osborn, the chair of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, said New York City's weight discrimination ban should serve as a model for the nation and the world. Osborn said the city's adoption of the new ordi-

nance "will ripple across the globe" and show that "discrimination against people based on their body size is wrong and is something that we can change."

The ordinance will take effect in 180 days, on Nov. 22. □



# Judge says fire retardant drops are polluting streams

By MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

**BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)** — A judge ruled Friday that the U.S. government can keep using chemical retardant to fight wildfires, despite finding that the practice pollutes streams in western states in violation of federal law.

Halting the use of the red slurry material could have resulted in greater environmental damage from wildfires, said U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen in Missoula, Montana.

The judge agreed with U.S. Forest Service officials who said dropping retardant from aircraft into areas with waterways was sometimes necessary to protect lives and property.

The ruling came after came after environmentalists sued following revelations that the Forest Service dropped retardant into waterways hundreds of times over the past decade.

Government officials say chemical fire retardant can be crucial to slowing



An aircraft lays down a line of fire retardant between a wildfire and homes in the dry, densely wooded Black Forest area northeast of Colorado Springs, Colo., on June 13, 2013.

Associated Press

the advance of dangerous blazes. Wildfires across North America have grown bigger and more destructive over the past two decades as climate change warms the planet.

More than 200 loads of re-

tardant got into waterways over the past decade. Federal officials say those situations usually occurred by mistake and in less than 1% of the thousands of loads annually.

A coalition that includes

Paradise, California where a 2018 blaze killed 85 people and destroyed the town had said a court ruling that stopped the use of retardant would have put lives, homes and forests at risk.

"This case was very personal for us," Paradise Mayor Greg Bolin said. "Our brave firefighters need every tool in the toolbox to protect human lives and property against wildfires, and today's ruling ensures we have a fighting chance this fire season."

State and local agencies lean heavily on the U.S. Forest Service to help fight fires, many of which originate or include federal land.

Fire retardant is a specialized mixture of water and chemicals including inorganic fertilizers or salts. It's designed to alter the way fire burns, making blazes less intense and slowing their advance.

That can give firefighters time to steer flames away from inhabited areas and in extreme situations to evacuate people from danger.

"Retardant lasts and even works if it's dry," said Scott Upton, a former region chief and air attack group supervisor for California's state fire agency. □

# Iowa law limits gender identity instruction, removes books depicting sex acts

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE and HANNAH FINGERHUT

Associated Press

**DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)**

— Iowa teachers will be banned from raising gender identity and sexual orientation issues with students through grade six, and all books depicting sex acts will be removed from school libraries, under a bill Republican Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signed Friday.

The new law is among similar measures that have been approved in other Republican-dominated statehouses around the country. As with many of those proposals, Iowa Republicans framed their action as a commonsense effort to ensure that parents can oversee what their children are learning in school and that teachers not delve into topics such as gender and

sexuality.

Despite the opposition of all Democratic legislators, Republicans who hold large majorities in Iowa's state House and Senate approved the measure in April and there was little doubt that Reynolds would

sign it; she had made issues related to gender identity and sexuality a focal point of her legislative agenda this year.

"This legislative session, we secured transformational education reform that puts parents in the driver's

seat, eliminates burdensome regulations on public schools, provides flexibility to raise teacher salaries, and empowers teachers to prepare our kids for their future," Reynolds said in a statement.

Under the new law, school administrators also would be required to notify parents if students asked to change their pronouns or names.

Religious texts will be exempt from the library ban on books depicting sex acts.

Democrats and LGBTQ groups argued that the restrictions would hurt children by limiting their ability to be open with teachers about gender and sexuality issues and to see their lives reflected in books and other curriculum.

The law's passage was not

a surprise, said Keenan Crow, director of policy and advocacy at the LGBTQ equality group One Iowa.

"But we are still very disappointed by it."

"Like many other pieces of her agenda, this legislation punches down on a vulnerable group of kids, and it benefits no one," Crow said of Reynolds.

The law also requires schools to post online a list of books in libraries, along with instructions for parents on how to review them and classroom instructional material, and to request that any material be removed. Schools would need parental approval before they could give surveys to students related to numerous topics, including mental health issues, sex and political affiliation. □



Iowa's Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds delivers her inaugural address, Jan. 13, 2023, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press



## Rights groups slam severe Taliban restrictions as 'crime against humanity'

By RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — Two top rights groups on Friday slammed the severe restrictions imposed on women and girls by the Taliban in Afghanistan as gender-based persecution, which is a crime against humanity.

In a new report, Amnesty International and the International Commission for Jurists, or ICJ, underscored how the Taliban crackdown on Afghan women's rights, coupled with "imprisonment, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment," could constitute gender persecution under the International Criminal Court.

The report by Amnesty and ICJ, titled, "The Taliban's war on women: The crime against humanity of gender persecution in Afghanistan," cited the ICC statute, which lists gender-based persecution as a crime against humanity.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from the country after two decades of war.

Despite initial promises of a more moderate rule, the



A Taliban fighter stands guard as women wait to receive food rations distributed by a humanitarian aid group, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

Taliban started to enforce restrictions on women and girls soon after their takeover, barring them from public spaces and most jobs, and banning education for girls beyond the sixth grade. The measures harked back to the previous Taliban rule of Afghanistan in the late 1990s, when they also imposed their strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia.

The harsh edicts prompted an international outcry

against the already ostracized Taliban, whose administration has not been officially recognized by the United Nations and the international community.

In the report, Santiago A. Canton, the ICJ secretary general, said the Taliban's actions are of such "magnitude, gravity and of such a systematic nature," that they qualify "as a crime against humanity of gender persecution." Both organizations called on the

International Criminal Court to include this crime in their ongoing investigation into what is happening in Afghanistan and take legal action. They also called on countries "to exercise universal jurisdiction" and hold the Taliban accountable under international law.

The report also accused the Taliban of targeting women and girls who have taken part in peaceful protests by detaining, forcibly disappearing them and

subjecting them to torture in custody. The Taliban have also forced them to sign "confessions" or "agreements" not to protest again, the report said.

What is happening in Afghanistan is "a war against women," which amounts to "international crimes" that are "organized, widespread, systematic," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty's secretary general.

Without elaborating, she called for the international community to dismantle "this system of gender oppression and persecution." Amnesty also documented cases of women and girls being forcibly married to members of the Taliban, as well as attempts to force them into such marriages. The report said those who refused such marriages were "subjected to abduction, intimidation, threats and torture."

The report cited the case of a 15-year-old girl who was forced to marry a Taliban figure despite her family's objections in the northeastern province of Takhar in August 2021, and that of a 33-year-old female journalist and social activist who was forcibly married to a Taliban commander the following month. □

Associated Press

## Israeli military: Palestinian man killed after alleged stabbing attempt in West Bank settlement



Israeli soldiers and Border Police are deployed at the site where Israeli settlers burned Palestinian cars and wheat fields in the village of al-Mughayyir near the West Bank city of Ramallah, Friday, May 26, 2023.

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — A Palestinian man was shot and killed on Friday in the occupied West Bank after sneaking into a Jewish settlement and trying to stab a resident there, the Israeli army said.

In a statement, the military said the man attempted to stab a resident in the Tene Omarim settlement and was shot by an armed civilian. It said the incident had set off an alarm and soldiers were scanning the area.

The Palestinian Health ministry confirmed the death and identified the killed man as Alaa Qissaya, 28.

Security camera footage from the site shows a Palestinian male crawling in under a gate and walking into the settlement while holding a knife. The video does not show the alleged stabbing attempt or the man being shot.

The settlement is located near Hebron, a flashpoint city in the southern West Bank, which is a frequent site of friction between Palestinian residents and Jewish settlers.

Meanwhile, Jewish settlers attacked Palestinian farmers and torched five vehicles at the village of al-Mughayyir near the city of Ramallah, the official Palestinian news agency reported. It said five farmers were beaten and injured by the settlers. Israeli media reported that Israeli forces were sent in to bring the situation under control. There was no immediate comment from the military.

The incidents occurred as Jews were celebrating Shavuot, a festival marking the day that Jews believe the Torah was given to Moses on Mount Sinai in Egypt. □



## Rwandan genocide suspect appears in court after 22 years on the run

By **GERALD IMRAY**

**Associated Press**

**CAPE TOWN, South Africa**

**(AP)** — One of Rwanda's most wanted suspects for the country's 1994 genocide appeared in a South African courtroom Friday, clutching a Bible and another book inscribed with "Jesus First" on the cover.

Fulgence Kayishema was a police officer with the rank of inspector when he allegedly orchestrated the killings of more than 2,000 people including children as they tried to seek refuge in a church during the first days of the genocide.

He was arrested Wednesday in a small town in a wine-making region about 30 miles east of Cape Town having managed to evade justice for nearly 30 years. South African authorities gave his age as 61.

Wearing glasses and a blue winter jacket with a hood, Kayishema confirmed his identity when asked by a judge during his brief appearance at the Cape Town Magistrates Court.

He held up the religious books for journalists and others in the courtroom to see before the hearing began and sat through much of the proceedings with his



**Fulgence Kayishema, center, enters the Magistrate's Court in Cape Town, South Africa, Friday, May 26, 2023.**

hands clasped in his lap. He was indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity in 2001 by a tribunal investigating the horrors of the Rwandan genocide, where more than 800,000 people were slaughtered when members of the ethnic Hutu group turned on the minority Tutsis and other Hutus trying to protect them. Kayishema will

be held in custody until another hearing at the same courthouse next Friday, the judge said. He is expected to be extradited to Rwanda and ultimately go on trial for genocide and crimes against humanity.

The five charges South African prosecutors brought against him Friday relate only to him making false statements on immigra-

tion forms as far back as 23 years ago to enter and stay in South Africa.

In January 2000, Kayishema lied to South African authorities by using a fake name Fulgence Dende-Minani and claiming to be a refugee from Burundi, prosecutors alleged in court documents.

He was granted asylum in 2004, but that expired two

years later according to prosecutors. He had apparently still been living in South Africa for the last 17 years. It was unclear if he would go on trial on those charges in South Africa before his extradition to stand trial for genocide. Kayishema was indicted for the Rwandan killings more than 20 years ago by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which was set up by the United Nations to investigate the genocide and bring killers to justice. The International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals has continued the work of that tribunal, and announced Kayishema's arrest on Thursday.

It called him "one of the most wanted suspects" in the Rwandan genocide.

According to the South African prosecutors' documents, he had fled from Rwanda at least a year before his indictment on the killing of 2,000 Tutsi refugees. Kayishema was among the leaders of a group that first tried to burn the church down. When that plan failed, he and others used a bulldozer to raze the building, crushing and killing the people inside, the indictment said. □

**Associated Press**

## Suspect in killing of 4 people, including 2 police officers, in Japan

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**

**Associated Press**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Police said they arrested a man Friday who had holed up in his father's house armed with a rifle and a knife after allegedly killing four people, including two police officers, in central Japan.

TV Asahi showed the man with his hands on his head walk out of the house and be ushered toward a police vehicle.

Masanori Aoki, 31, a farmer, was arrested by police under a court warrant on suspicion of murder in Nakano, a city in Nagano prefecture.

Nagano prefectural police chief Iwao Koyama offered condolences to the victims and said the loss of two po-

lice officials is "extremely regrettable." He noted that the suspect allegedly shot to death a police officer in the left chest with a hunting rifle. National Public Safety

Commission Chairperson Koichi Tani told a regular news conference Friday that the suspect had licenses for multiple hunting and air guns authorized by the

prefectural public safety commission and his license renewals have been properly made.

Tani said police are investigating his gun usage records and that they plan to take necessary safety measures based on investigation results.

Police said the house was owned by his father, a local politician. Koyama said two women who escaped while the suspect was holed up are the suspect's mother and aunt and that they were uninjured. NHK said that the mother told police that the attacker was her son and that his father was chairman of the city assembly.

Japanese media quoted neighbors described the

suspect as a quiet person and that they were not aware of any family feud.

Police said earlier that two police officers were shot by the suspect when they arrived at the scene after receiving an emergency call saying a woman was stabbed. The officers were apparently without bullet-proof vests.

On Friday, Nagano police chief said the suspect allegedly stabbed to death the 66-year-old woman with a survival knife.

A witness told NHK on Thursday that a woman fell while being chased by the suspect, who then stabbed her with a knife and shot at two police officers as they arrived at the scene in a patrol car. □



**This shows a house where a man with a rifle and knife had holed up in Nakano, Nagano prefecture, central Japan Friday morning, May 26, 2023.**

**Associated Press**



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

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Soul beach

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TIFFANY HADDISH

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HOSTED BY: CHRIS SPENCER

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## Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba; Good Vibes Only! Live Music by Jill Scott, Lucky Daye and NBO

**Oranjestad - Set your sights on higher ground and indulge in harmonious vibrations at the Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba.**

Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 – 29, 2023, the stars appear center stage for nightly shows displaying high-volume performances by chart-topping talent, including The Roots, Jill Scott, Lucky Daye, Anthony Hamilton, Deon Cole & Tiffany Haddish. Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba brings a tour de force line-up of unwavering excellence, singers/musicians/comedians/entertainers, sure to quench the soul of festival attendees from all over the world in Aruba's paradise.

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The Roots and Anthony Hamilton  
May 28th Sunday Music Concert: Jill  
Scott and Lucky Daye

"The Soul Beach Music Festival is a one-of-a-kind entertainment experience that electrifies our One happy island. We are honored to be hosting the 21st anniversary of the largest music festival in the Caribbean" said Ronella Croes, CEO of Aruba Tourism Authority. "The festival continues to bring top international artists and performers to the island, and we can't wait for locals and travelers to experience the magic of Soul Beach."

Dive into destination dreams in Aruba's oasis and explore the most welcoming adventure replete with outdoor attractions primed for the ultimate encounter with nature. A true cosmopolitan getaway intertwined in authentic Caribbean culture; Aruba offers an array of idyllic beachside restaurants with seating at the water's edge to serene coffee shops serving up boastful brews, but there is so much more to explore beyond the shorelines. Travelers are



beckoned to experience an epicurean affair of culinary indulgences along with pristine art displays, a national park, and expansive accommodations showcasing hotels and villas reminiscent of intimate secluded retreats. A premium shopping district transports fashion lovers into infinite odyssey surrounded by cool yacht sensations. Get ready to give free rein to the extraordinary at Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba. This Memorial Day weekend, Aruba is the place to see and be seen!

"We are thrilled to kick off our 21st edition of the Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba with such a star-studded line up, Mark Adkins, CEO & Executive Producer of Soul Beach Festival Productions. "Festivalgoers have been buzzing with excitement on social and have started arriving early this year on the beautiful island of Aruba. We give thanks to all our partners but a special salute to the Aruba Tourism



Authority for all these years of commitment which has grown the festival to attract over 7000 tourists for this Memorial Day Weekend. Get ready to ride the wave and enjoy a week while creating a lifetime of memories."

### Chris Spencer

With a career spanning over 30 years, actor, comedian, writer, producer and director, Chris Spencer is truly at the top of the entertainment game. He is co-creator of BET's hit faux reality show Real Husbands of Hollywood and has also been head writer for countless shows such as the Emmys, SNL, and ABC Family's Grownish, just to name a few. He recently directed his first feature, Back on the Strip, starring Tiffany Haddish and Wesley Snipes.

### Jill Scott

Jill Scott is a three-time Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter and New York Time's best-selling poet. With a career spanning over two decades, Jilly from Philly has graced the music scene with a voice that carries depth and precision. Her incomparable melodic style has given us tried and true R&B classics such as: A Long Walk, The Way, Golden and So In Love (ft. Anthony Hamilton), just to name a few.

### Lucky Daye

Since the release of his 2019 debut album Painted, Lucky Daye has been elevating the modern-day R&B game: offering a classic soul sound with his own, unique stylistic twist. An undeniable and exciting talent, both as a vocalist and songwriter, Daye has already amassed an impressive catalog of work including his 2021 Grammy award winning EP Table For Two. His sophomore album, Cadydrip, received critical acclaim and debuted at #5 on the Billboard Top R&B Albums chart.



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Join the Soul Beach Music Festival community: follow us on Twitter and Instagram @SoulBeachMusic and become a fan of the 2023 Soul Beach Music Festival on Facebook. Get real time features on the day parties, concert tickets, partner and sponsor offerings by downloading the Soul Beach Music Festival App on GooglePlay and AppleStore.

The 2023 Soul Beach Music Festival is sponsored by Aruba Tourism Authority; additional sponsors include JetBlue, AHATA, ALL BLK.tv, Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort, Divi Resorts, Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, Embassy Suites by Hilton Aruba Resort, Courtyard by Marriot, La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino, Aruba Airport Authority, Setar, Kini Kini Tours, Surinam Airways, JetAir, Heineken, Casamigos Tequila, Johnny Walker Whiskey, Ciroc Vodka, Captain Morgan Rum, Hennessy, Hpnotiq, Moet, Fun Miles, Aruba Ports Authority, Budget, Amigo Rent-a-Car, GMax Car Rental, Sunset Car Rental, Royal Car Rental, Drive 4 Cheap Car Rental and Smart Rent.□



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## Aruba to Me

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Rob & Ginie from Strathroy Ontario.**

They wrote to us saying; **"Best. Trip. Ever. We are so excited**

**to come back to this beautiful island. We made good memories, new friends, enjoyed amazing food and views!! We stopped and shared an apple with wild donkeys on the way to Baby Beach one day. Covered bridge on the far side of the island."**

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



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**beauty & THE BEACH**

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Maria and Maya from Venezuela**. They expressed that Aruba is like home to them, and they said that the customer service is amazing everywhere they go. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

*This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.*

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# Delphi Watersports Wins 2023 Viator Experience Award

## "Catamaran Dolphin Snorkeling Cruise: Open bar, Light Lunch" Recognized Among Best in Top 20 for the Caribbean, Based on Exceptional Ratings & Reviews

Oranjestad – Delphi Watersports announced today it has been recognized as a Viator Experience Award winner for "Top 20 Best in Experience" for the Caribbean region. Despite a challenging few years for the travel industry, Delphi Watersports stood out to travelers and provided an exceptional experience.

"We, at Delphi Watersports, are absolutely thrilled and deeply honored to have received the prestigious Viator Experience Award for our phenomenal catamaran Dolphin snorkeling cruise. This is a truly momentous achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of our team for their unwavering dedication and hard work.

We firmly believe that our personalized, friendly service coupled with our commitment to our customers' safety has played a significant role in making our catamaran Dolphin snorkeling cruise such a resounding success. Our unique features and innovative approach have also contributed to its massive popularity. But, we believe that the real secret to our success story lies in the exceptional professionalism, hospitality, and friendliness of our staff. They go above and beyond to ensure that every single guest who steps aboard our catamaran feels welcomed and valued, creating an unparalleled experience that is unmatched in the industry.

In addition, we must acknowledge the incredible support of our re-

peat guests who have played a crucial role in making this achievement possible. Their loyalty and enthusiasm for our catamaran Dolphin snorkeling cruise have been a driving force behind our success, and we are incredibly grateful for their continued patronage and trust in our services.

Their valuable feedback and suggestions have helped us to constantly improve and refine our offerings, ensuring that we are always delivering the best possible experience for our guests. We are immensely proud of the relationships we have built with our repeat guests and are thrilled to have them as a part of our Delphi Watersports family.

We will continue to strive for excellence in everything we do, from our personalized service to our commitment to safety, to ensure that our guests have an unforgettable time aboard our catamaran Dolphin snorkeling cruise. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this incredible achievement, and we look forward to welcoming you aboard again soon!"

Viator is the world's largest travel experiences marketplace with more than 300,000 bookable tours, activities, and excursions. Now in its second year, the final rankings for the Viator Experience Awards are based on average review ratings, share of bookings with a review, and number of bookings on the Viator platform over a 12-month period (Jan-Dec 2022). Serving as the

hallmark of the best experiences to book, this round of Viator Experience Awards recognizes 220 experiences, tours, and activities across 11 geographic regions - ranking the top 20 winners per region.

"No matter where you're from or where you're going, one thing is clear—the hunger for unforgettable travel experiences has never been greater," said Adam Lawless, Communications Director, Viator. "What you do and see while traveling tends to leave a lasting mark. We're thrilled to have this award program spotlight truly exceptional tours, activities, and excursions from around the world that elevate your travel experience—creating memories you won't soon forget."

To see traveler reviews and to book with Delphi Watersports, visit Delphi Watersports - Tripadvisor You can also follow the conversation on Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #ViatorExperienceAwards.

### About Delphi Watersports

We are a family business that has been established on Aruba since 1992, and we have been awarded the TripAdvisor's prestigious Award of Excellence, Hall of Fame Award, Travelers Choice Award and Experience Award during the past 9 consecutive years.

We offer an unsurpassable variety of both water sports and activities available on Aruba, specialized in giving excellent service to individuals, couples, families, groups and



all kinds of events. We make sure that our customers have an unforgettable vacation experience.

Delphi Watersports. Book with us now and Experience the Difference!

### About Viator

Viator, a Tripadvisor company, makes it easy to find and book unforgettable tours, activities, and excursions around the world. With more than 300,000 experiences to choose from there's always something new to discover, both near and far from home.

Your time off is precious so we focus tirelessly on quality, offering everything from simple tours to extreme adventures (and all the niche, interesting stuff in between). With ultimate flexibility, award-winning customer support, and millions of traveler reviews, you can truly do more with Viator.

Viator. One app, 300,000+ travel experiences you'll remember. □



## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

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site, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Ken and Paula Phillips, Rhode Island, USA.**

They wrote to us saying; **"Aruba to us is Happiness!! We discovered this beautiful Island 20+ years ago and visit every year.**

**The climate, lovely people, food, beaches and history of the Island have captured our hearts"**

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



# IBISA lights the Olympic torch for the Scholar Games 2023

(Oranjestad)—The Minister of Sports and Education, Endy Croes, held a press conference Thursday morning in anticipation for the grand opening of the Scholar Games 2023, which took place Friday afternoon at the Frans Figaroa Stadium.

For this grand opening, the minister indicated that there will be 1000 students from 45 schools—12 kindergartens, 23 primary schools and 10 secondary schools—that will be participating in the Scholar Games 2023. There are seven different disciplines that will be featured, namely basketball, soccer, volleyball, beach tennis, badmin-

ton, functional fitness and culture dancing.

William Erasmus from the IBISA department for sports explained that the program for this year's scholar games has begun since the beginning of the school year 2022-2023. There were some games throughout the past year that have taken place, and now is the time for all final games to take place.

Erasmus indicated that there will be different prizes, including a cash prize, the title of MVP for each discipline, School of the Year award and the teachers will be given a certificate for their involvement in pre-



Mascot Wiwi, Minister Endy Croes and William Erasmus from IBISA announced the start of Scholar Games 2023

paring the students.

During the conference, Minister Croes gave a brief explanation of the back story of the Scholar Games Mascot Wiwi. The mascot's story highlights the importance of playing sports and being active, along with

a healthy diet, which is a point that both the Minister and IBISA often focuses on with children from Aruba.

In terms of the official opening that took place yesterday, the minister mentioned that the official march would begin at 6:30

in the afternoon and this included a cultural showcase choreographed by Mariol Peña, where 80 students presented their acts and. The grand opening also began with a protocol act.

This protocol act involved lighting the Olympic torch, which will stay in the stadium for two whole weeks. At the end of grand opening act, the games began with the first kick of a soccer ball, kicking off the first game in the event—soccer.

Finally, Minister Croes invited the Aruban community to take part in this event and support the children and schools of Aruba. □



honorable mentions presented at the press briefing for the European Union Prize for Citizen Science

(Oranjestad)—For the first time, the European Union has awarded outstanding citizen science projects to promote collaboration, sustainability and the formation of the future. Ars Electronica in Austria was in charge of organizing this

new competition.

There were three projects that were selected as winners and another 27 projects that received an honorable mention. The Metabolic Foundation's Surfside Science project was one

## Surfside Science receives honorary recognition by the European Union Prize for Citizen Science

of the few to receive an honorary mention for being an innovative project across the entire European Union. It is worth mentioning that Surfside Science is the only project within the European territories in the Caribbean (OCTs) to have been given this honorable recognition.

"Citizen Science" is defined as "scientific work that includes the active involvement of the general public, often times under the leadership of a professional scientist." The Surfside Science project included many volunteers, but also stu-

dents, in the development process and implementation of methods to monitor coastal environment. On the website science.brenchies.com, many prototype projects designed to monitor water and air quality are displayed, and visitors of the website may read about the progress of these projects. You may also follow them on Instagram at @brenchies or take a look at their YouTube channel "brenchie's lab." For any questions, please send an e-mail at science@brenchies.com.

The Surfside Science project

was made possible through financial support from RESEMBID. RESEMBID is a program that supports sustainable human developments in countries and within the OCTs, of which Aruba forms part of. RESEMBID is finance by the European Union and their enforcement partner Expertise France. The latter is a collaboration agency of the French government for development.

Brenchie's lab is a maker space of Metabolic Foundation. For more information about RESEMBID, please visit [www.resembid.org](http://www.resembid.org). □

## Aruba to me

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for sup-

porting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from **Tom & Dee Pedersen from Andover, Massachusetts**

They wrote to us saying; **"Aruba to me is so very special to both of us as we celebrate our 16th anniversary at Costa Linda each year this week. We fell in love with the island, the people, the weather. We are from Andover, Massachusetts and really look forward to each May to celebrate with our lovely friends at the Costa Linda."**

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Cleaner scent
  - 1 Western state capital
  - 6 Minimal amount
  - 11 Building wing
  - 12 Fighting
  - 13 Belief
  - 14 Zigzag
  - 15 Under-world group
  - 17 Piano part
  - 18 Tell tales
  - 19 Close-fitting jackets
  - 22 Airport sched. abbr.
  - 23 Lone Star Staters
  - 24 Two cubed
  - 25 Malay island
  - 27 Easy victim
  - 30 Ballpark figure
  - 31 Greek vowel
  - 32 Skill
  - 33 Kitchen fixtures
  - 35 Kind of ballerina
  - 38 Notions
- DOWN**
- 1 Clash
  - 2 Kind of musical wonder
  - 3 Wanting
  - 4 Appear
  - 5 Black-mailing
  - 6 Bar study
  - 7 Seine season
  - 8 Come to
  - 9 Frugal fellows
  - 10 Deuce beaters
  - 16 "Stayin' Alive" group
  - 20 Urging on
  - 21 Diet no-no
  - 24 Geologic period
  - 25 Infertile
  - 26 Prompt
  - 27 Stringent
  - 28 Not nervous
  - 29 Went by
  - 30 Syrup choice
  - 34 Freshener target
  - 36 May honoree
  - 37 One or more

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## Yesterday's answer

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39						40			
41						42			

5-27

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-27

## CRYPTOQUOTE

F N C Z G B C L Y S T N V T W Y

B Z G W W Z G U G Y Z W Y K J N Z Y

K T J G S U Y S T W F N C Z W S N

K G Y B. — V N Z Y G E U Z N V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OPEN YOUR EYES. LOOK WITHIN. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE LIFE YOU'RE LIVING? — BOB MARLEY

# Regulators take aim at AI to protect consumers and workers

By CORA LEWIS

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — As concerns grow over increasingly powerful artificial intelligence systems like ChatGPT, the nation's financial watchdog says it's working to ensure that companies follow the law when they're using AI.

Already, automated systems and algorithms help determine credit ratings, loan terms, bank account fees, and other aspects of our financial lives. AI also affects hiring, housing and working conditions.

Ben Winters, Senior Counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said a joint statement on enforcement released by federal agencies last month was a positive first step.

"There's this narrative that AI is entirely unregulated, which is not really true," he said. "They're saying, 'Just because you use AI to make a decision, that doesn't mean you're exempt from responsibility regarding the impacts of that decision.' 'This is our opinion on this. We're watching.'"

In the past year, the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau said it has fined banks over mismanaged automated systems that resulted in wrongful home foreclosures, car reposessions, and lost benefit payments, after the institutions relied on new technology and faulty algorithms.

There will be no "AI exemptions" to consumer protection, regulators say, pointing to these enforcement actions as examples.

Consumer Finance Protection Bureau Director Rohit Chopra said the agency



Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, left, and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman arrive to the White House for a meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris on artificial intelligence, Thursday, May 4, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

has "already started some work to continue to muscle up internally when it comes to bringing on board data scientists, technologists and others to make sure we can confront these challenges" and that the agency is continuing to identify potentially illegal activity. Representatives from the Federal Trade Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Department of Justice, as well as the CFPB, all say they're directing resources and staff to take aim at new tech and identify negative ways it could affect consumers' lives.

"One of the things we're trying to make crystal clear is that if companies don't even understand how their AI is making decisions, they can't really use it," Chopra said. "In other cases, we're looking at how our fair lending laws are being adhered to when it comes to the use of all of this data." Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act and Equal Credit Opportunity Act, for example, financial providers have a legal obliga-

tion to explain any adverse credit decision. Those regulations likewise apply to decisions made about housing and employment. Where AI make decisions in ways that are too opaque to explain, regulators say the algorithms shouldn't be used.

"I think there was a sense that, 'Oh, let's just give it to the robots and there will be no more discrimination,'" Chopra said. "I think the learning is that that actually isn't true at all. In some ways the bias is built into the data."

EEOC Chair Charlotte Burrows said there will be enforcement against AI hiring technology that screens out job applicants with disabilities, for example, as well as so-called "bossware" that illegally surveils workers. Burrows also described ways that algorithms might dictate how and when employees can work in ways that would violate existing law. "If you need a break because you have a disability or perhaps you're pregnant, you need a break," she said.

"The algorithm doesn't necessarily take into account that accommodation. Those are things that we are looking closely at ... I want to be clear that while we recognize that the technology is evolving, the underlying message here is the laws still apply and we do have tools to enforce." □

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# Always wanted a lighthouse? U.S. is giving some away, selling others at auction

By MARK PRATT  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Ten lighthouses that for generations have stood like sentinels along America's shorelines protecting mariners from peril and guiding them to safety are being given away at no cost or sold at auction by the federal government.

The aim of the program run by the General Services Administration is to preserve the properties, most of which are more than a century old.

The development of modern technology, including GPS, means lighthouses are no longer essential for navigation, said John Kelly of the GSA's office of real property disposition. And while the Coast Guard often maintains aids to navigation at or near lighthouses, the structures themselves are often no longer mission critical.

Yet the public remains fascinated by the beacons, which are popular tourist attractions and the subject of countless photographers and artists.

"People really appreciate the heroic role of the solitary lighthouse keeper," he said, explaining their allure. "They were really the instruments to provide safe passage into some of these perilous harbors which afforded communities great opportunities for commerce, and they're often located in prominent locations that offer breathtaking views."

The GSA has been transferring ownership of lighthouses since Congress passed the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act in 2000. About 150 lighthouses have been transferred, 80 or so given away and another 70 auctioned, raising more than \$10 million.

This year, six lighthouses are being offered at no cost to federal, state or local government agencies, nonprofits, educational organizations or other entities that



The Keweenaw Waterway Lower Entrance Light stands in Keweenaw Bay, June 2, 2022, in Chassell, Mich.

Associated Press

are willing to maintain and preserve them and make them publicly available for educational, recreational or cultural purposes.

They include the 34-foot (10.4-meter) tall Plymouth/Gurnet Light in Massachusetts. The octagonal wooden structure dates to 1842, although a lighthouse has been at the site since 1768. A previous beacon at the site was staffed by America's first female lighthouse keeper.

Kelly's personal favorite is Warwick Neck Light, in Warwick, Rhode Island. The 51-foot (15.5-meter) tall lighthouse that dates to 1827 was an important navigation tool for mariners making their way to

Providence.

"Warwick Neck is really at quite a prominent location up on a cliff overlooking Narragansett Bay," he said. "That's probably one that I would say that has a real 'Wow' factor when you get out and look at it." The other lighthouses being offered at no cost are Lynde Point Lighthouse in Old Saybrook, Connecticut; Nobska Lighthouse in Falmouth, Massachusetts; Little Mark Island and Monument in Harpswell, Maine; and Erie Harbor North Pier Lighthouse in Pennsylvania. Some are already maintained by nonprofits, and those agencies will have the opportunity to apply to continue doing so, Kelly

said.

If a new owner is not found, the lighthouse is offered for competitive bidding at auction.

The four lighthouses being sold at auction include Cleveland Harbor West Pierhead Light, a 50-foot (15.5-meter) steel tower dating to 1911 that is only accessible by boat but has spectacular views of the city skyline.

The others are Penfield Reef Lighthouse in Fairfield, Connecticut; Stratford Shoal Light in the middle of Long Island Sound between New York and Connecticut; and Keweenaw Waterway Lower Entrance Light in Chassell, Michigan. Some of the lighthouses purchased in the past have been converted into private residences by people who want a unique living situation. □



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Narcotics Anonymous  
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# Yankees manager Aaron Boone doesn't want robo umps

By JERRY BEACH

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Ejected for the fourth time this season and second time in a four-game span, Yankees manager Aaron Boone didn't think there was a need for robot umpires. "I don't want that," Boone said after Thursday night's 3-1 loss to the Baltimore Orioles.

Boone was tossed in the middle of the third inning by Edwin Moscoso over the umpire's strike zone. Boone held up four fingers while arguing, signaling Boone thought the plate umpire missed four calls on pitches by Yankees starter Clarke Schmidt.

A graphic posted by the Yankees' YES Network indicated at least six of Schmidt's pitches that caught the edge of the strike zone were called balls.

The Automated Ball-Strike System better known as the robo ump is being tested at Triple-A this season and could reach the majors soon.

"Clearly he shouldn't have had to throw almost 30 pitches in that first inning,"



New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone leaves the field after being ejected during the third inning of the team's baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on Thursday, May 25, 2023, in New York.

Boone said. "But, no, I'm not advocating for the robo. I think these guys do for the most part a great job and work really hard at it.

When you're playing for a lot, there's going to be some issues from time to time, as simple as that."

Boone also was angry Moscoso walked away

during the argument and first base umpire Chris Guccione, the crew chief, stood between the two when Boone tried to re-engage Moscoso.

"I should not have been thrown out of that game," Boone said.

"I was very calm, didn't do much at all. And then Gucc was holding me back and

just telling me so I didn't need to be restrained. The dismissive attitude in walking away, I took exception to."

Boone may have gotten spit on an umpire while arguing, which could lead to a suspension from Major League Baseball.

"I hope not," Boone said. Boone was ejected mo-

ments after Gunnar Henderson lined out to first to end the top of the third. Henderson worked a six-pitch walk against Schmidt in the first in which Moscoso called balls on three borderline pitches.

Facing Schmidt again, Henderson laid off two pitches on the outside corner called balls in his third-inning at-bat.

"It's going to happen. There's going to be some missed calls, obviously, throughout the game," said Schmidt, who threw 29 pitches in the first and 97 pitches over five innings. "It seemed like there was some crucial ones early on. It kind of ran up the pitch count a little bit early on."

Boone was ejected against Cleveland on April 12, against Toronto on May 15 and against Cincinnati on Sunday. He has been ejected 30 times in five-plus seasons as Yankees manager.

"We're fighting tooth and nail out there, and so to see your manager out there fighting tooth and nail for you, as well, is a good feeling," Schmidt said.

"I know he's always going to have our backs." □

Associated Press

## Buitrago wins 19th stage; Thomas sees Giro lead cut

**TRE CIME DI LAVAREDO, Italy (AP)** — Geraint Thomas maintained his bid to become the oldest Giro d'Italia champion although his lead was cut slightly by Primož Roglič during the toughest stage of the race on Friday.

Roglič crossed the summit finish of the so-called "Queen Stage" three seconds ahead of Thomas at the end of the race's final mountain road leg.

There were no flat sections and five tough, classified climbs on the 183-kilometer (114-mile) route from Longarone to the Tre Cime di Lavaredo, which had gradients of up to 18%.

The 19th stage was won by Santiago Buitrago, who fin-

ished 51 seconds ahead of Derek Gee and 1 minute, 46 seconds ahead of Magnus Cort and Roglič, who just missed out on bonus seconds.

"I'm really happy with this victory. It was the most difficult moment of a difficult Giro for me personally," said Buitrago, who rides for Bahrain Victorious. "I wanted to try and raise my arms before the end and coming here at Tre Cime di Lavaredo is amazing.

"This is the recompense for all the work that I've done. ... There's a lot of motivation for me and the whole team having seen the fruits of our labors."

The 37-year-old Thomas, who rides for Ineos Gren-

diers, is 26 seconds ahead of Roglič going into what will be a decisive penultimate stage on Saturday. Third-placed João Almeida lost more time and was 59 seconds behind Thomas. Roglič changed his bicycle shortly before the start of the penultimate climb and he made his move inside the final kilometer. However, Thomas was able to stick to his wheel and the British cyclist made his own attack in the final 500 meters and looked to have slightly distanced his rival. But Roglič came back and gained what could be a vital few seconds.

The winner will likely be decided in Saturday's mountain time trial that ends in a



Colombia's Santiago Buitrago celebrates winning the 19th stage of the Giro D'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Longarone to Tre Cime di Lavaredo, Italy, Friday, May 26, 2023.

Associated Press

demanding climb up Monte Lussari, with an elevation of over 1,000 meters (3,000 feet) and gradients of up to 22%.

"Tomorrow we go full again," Roglič said. "It's good. We got a bit of legs back, so tomorrow we go full, eh?"

"If I wouldn't be confident then I don't start. The best one at the end wins."

The race ends on Sunday in a mostly ceremonial finish in Rome, where Thomas could beat the age record held by Fiorenzo Magni, who was 34 when he won in 1955. □



# NFL can't shake perception it doesn't care what players and coaches think

By **ROB MAADDI**  
AP Pro Football Writer

Even when the NFL institutes a rule designed to reduce concussions, it can't shake the perception that it doesn't care what players and coaches think. The league took a step toward eliminating kickoffs this week by enhancing the touchback rule for a one-year trial with a priority on player safety. The receiving team will now get the ball at its own 25 with a fair catch of a kickoff anywhere behind that yard line. Some of the league's most prominent coaches criticized the decision. "My thing is, where does it stop? I mean, you start taking pieces and you know, we'll see how this goes but you don't want to take too many pieces away or you're going to be playing flag football," Kansas City Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. Reid, a two-time Super Bowl champion, isn't known for stirring the pot. He's shied

away from sharing controversial opinions throughout his career as he enters his 25th season as a head coach. Clearly, he hates this rule change. He's not alone. "We had a chance to weigh in on that with all the special teams coaches," Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "We had a long talk and discussion about that. We weren't for it. We voted against it. We think it's going to create more high-speed head trauma than not having it in there. That's our position on it. But we'll see. They want to give it a shot and take a look at it. We'll give it a shot and take a look at it. So it's in and because it's in, we support it but we thought there were better ideas." Detroit Lions coach Dan Campbell didn't hold back. "I'm highly frustrated. It's very frustrating, but look, I don't make the rules," Campbell said. "That's the new rule and then we'll live



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell addresses the media at the NFL Owners Meetings at the Omni Hotel, Tuesday, May 23, 2023 in Eagan, Minn.

Associated Press

by the new rule. We'll find a way to adjust, adapt, and still get what we want. That's what you've got to do. But I hate that we continue to take away from the game. That's what really worries me, that we just, we continue to bleed this League (dry). If we're not careful, it's not going to replenish at one point. But listen, it's the rules and we'll make do, and we'll adjust." Chiefs All-Pro tight end Travis Kelce called it "absolutely stupid." "I don't think this is making the game safer. I think it's making it more boring and taking a lot of excitement

out of the game's opening play. This is whack," Travis Kelce said on his Podcast with older brother, Jason. Jason Kelce, an All-Pro center for the Philadelphia Eagles, wondered what's next. "We're just getting closer and closer to getting rid of special teams," Jason Kelce said. "I mean, it's like the only thing left now is punt. When is somebody not gonna fair catch it and take the ball to 25? Unless it's just a really bad kick, right? I don't know." NFL data says concussions on kickoffs occur more than twice as often as on

plays from scrimmage, and that rate has risen significantly over the last two years. The league predicts the return rate for kickoffs in 2023 will drop from 38% to 31%, and the rate of concussions on the sport's most dangerous play will be reduced by 15%. Harbaugh indicated it'll lead to more head injuries, though there's no data yet to prove it. Teams may attempt more squib kicks, which could potentially create more collisions. Only one of the 19 concussions that occurred on kickoffs last year happened to the returner. □



Arizona Cardinals wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) against the Denver Broncos of an NFL football game Sunday, December 18, 2022, in Denver.

Associated Press

By **DAVID BRANDT**  
AP Sports Writer

**TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)** — The DeAndre Hopkins era is over for the Arizona Cardinals, who are on the hook for quite an expensive breakup. The Cardinals released the three-time All-Pro wide receiver in a salary cap move Friday after they

failed to find a trading partner in the offseason. Arizona made the move three seasons after acquiring Hopkins in a blockbuster trade with Houston and eventually signing him to a \$54.5 million contract extension through 2024. The soon-to-be 31-year-old Hopkins would have

## DeAndre Hopkins released by Arizona Cardinals

counted close to \$31 million against the cap this season. His cap hit in dead money is \$22.6 million. The good news for the Cardinals is he'll be off the books for 2024, when the team figures to be more competitive. Hopkins still one of the NFL's elite receivers when healthy is free to sign with any team. His 11,298 career yards receiving already rank 36th in league history. Arizona is rebuilding under new head coach Jonathan Gannon and general manager Monti Ossenfort and keeping Hopkins' expensive contract didn't make much sense, particularly because franchise quarterback Kyler Murray

is likely to miss part of the upcoming season while recovering from a knee injury. The Cardinals tried for months to trade Hopkins, but his expensive contract made that difficult. Hopkins had 221 catches for 2,696 yards and 17 touchdowns in 35 games with Arizona. His most famous catch was a last-second heave from Murray in the end zone against the Buffalo Bills in 2020 that became known as "Hail Murray." His 2020 season was his best in the desert. He caught a franchise-record 115 passes for 1,407 yards and six touchdowns. For a few months, the Murray-Hopkins combo looked

like it would grow into one of the most prolific in the NFL. The Cardinals started the 2021 season with a 10-2 record thanks to their high-powered offense, but Hopkins and Murray both battled injuries in the latter half of the year and the team faded, barely making the playoffs before getting blown out by the Rams in the wild-card round. Hopkins never got on track in 2022, starting the year with a six-game suspension after testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs. The Cardinals finished with a 4-13 record, leading to the firing of coach Kliff Kingsbury. The team also parted ways with GM Steve Keim. □



# Weekly SPECIALS



<p><b>WAS \$5.14</b></p> <p><b>\$3.14</b></p> <p>Per Bag</p> <p>Potatoes Red 5lbs</p>	<p><b>WAS \$17.14</b></p> <p><b>\$15.42</b></p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Angus Top Round Steak</p>	<p><b>WAS \$3.71</b></p> <p><b>\$2.91</b></p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Tomatoes Reg</p>	<p><b>WAS \$7.97</b></p> <p><b>\$6.28</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Gwaltney Sliced Bacon 12oz</p>
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<p><b>WAS \$1.71</b></p> <p><b>\$1.42</b></p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Cabbage Green USA</p>	<p><b>WAS \$14.28</b></p> <p><b>\$13.14</b></p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Angus Boneless Soupmeat</p>	<p><b>WAS \$4.57</b></p> <p><b>\$3.97</b></p> <p>Per Bag</p> <p>Apple Gala 3lbs</p>	<p><b>WAS \$17.71</b></p> <p><b>\$15.99</b></p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Angus Cutsmall</p>	<p><b>WAS \$34.28</b></p> <p><b>\$28.57</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Rico Jasmin Rice 20lb</p>
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<b>DIARY/FROZEN</b>	<p><b>WAS \$7.99</b></p> <p><b>\$6.85</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Katharos Griekse Yoghurt Naturel 1000gr</p>	<b>HBC/GM</b>	<p><b>WAS \$2.97</b></p> <p><b>\$2.57</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>EQ Cotton Swabs 375ct</p>	<b>DELI/BAKERY</b>	<p><b>WAS \$1.48</b></p> <p><b>\$1.14</b></p> <p>100 GR</p> <p>Provolone Cheese</p>
	<p><b>WAS \$12.57</b></p> <p><b>\$10.28</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Gorton's Crispy Battered Fish 12pk</p>		<p><b>WAS \$2.34</b></p> <p><b>\$2.11</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Floss Picks 50ct</p>		<p><b>WAS \$2.57</b></p> <p><b>\$2.11</b></p> <p>100 GR</p> <p>Oven Roasted White Turkey Breast</p>

## AVAILABLE AT SHABA AND SAVANETA

<p><b>WAS \$2.30</b></p> <p><b>\$1.82</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Taksi Exotisch Fruit 1.5L</p>	<p><b>WAS \$4.74</b></p> <p><b>\$4.28</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Genmills Cinnamon Toast Crunch 12oz</p>	<p><b>WAS \$2.82</b></p> <p><b>\$1.71</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Alberto Beans Small Red Kidney Dry Bag</p>	<p><b>WAS \$4.51</b></p> <p><b>\$3.99</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Plenty Easy Pull Rol 1st</p>	<p><b>WAS \$2.85</b></p> <p><b>\$2.57</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Sunny Delight Tangy Original/ Delight Smooth 64oz</p>
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